

Maryland Coalition Against Pornography, Inc.

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In support of HB 670

We at MCAP add our voices to those who are pointing to the need to increase the severity of penalties for being convicted of possessing large quantities of child sexual abuse material. The sheer quantities of this heinous material being held are mind-boggling and frightening.



These images often are repeatedly shared, revictimizing society's most vulnerable beings. Cases with high numbers of these images evidence **aggravating circumstances** deserving of heavier disciplinary measures. MCAP applauds efforts to modify the sentencing guidelines and put more teeth into our law, to make the punishment fit the horrific crime of child pornography.

We also wish to recommend that Maryland law might change the terminology, such that child pornography would be called **Child Sexual Abuse Material**, or **CSAM**. Why? Please see *Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse* (Adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg, 2016) - <https://ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Terminology-guidelines-396922-EN-1.pdf>.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Cairns

Education Chairperson
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